

App. Serial No.: 10/092,933

Atty. Docket No.: 0003-029 RECEIVED
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REMARKS

These remarks are in response to the Office Action dated December 11, 2006, which has a shortened statutory period for response set to expire March 11, 2007. A two-month extension, to expire May 11, 2007, is requested in a petition filed herewith.

Applicants appreciate and thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 12-19, 22, 26-28, 30-42, and 45-59 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 12, 13, 22, 28, 30-33, 45-50, 53-56, 58, and 59 are allowed. Claims 14-17, 26, 27, 34, 35, and 38-41 are rejected over prior art, and Claims 18, 19, 36, 37, 42, 51, 52, and 57 are objected to but indicated to include allowable subject matter. Claims 14, 17, 26, 34, 46, 49, and 51 are currently amended, and Claims 60-67 are added. Claims 3, 10-11, 16, 18-21, 23-25, 29, 36, 43-44 and 57 are canceled. Claims 1-2, 4-9, 12-13, 15, 22, 27-28, 30-33, 35, 37-42, 45, 47-48, 50, 52-56, and 58-59 remain as originally filed or previously presented. Allowance of all remaining claims is respectfully requested.

As amended herein, all remaining claims are either allowed or include indicated allowable subject matter. In the previous office action, Claims 14-17, 26, 27, 34, 35, and 38-41 were rejected over prior art. The previously rejected claims are amended as follows. The amendments are intended to expedite the allowance of the present application and are not an admission with respect to the propriety of the rejections.

Claims 14-19 and 51-52:

Claim 19 is indicated by the Examiner to include allowable subject matter. The limitations of Claim 19 and intervening Claim 16 are amended into independent base Claim 14. Claim 14 is, therefore, now allowable. Claims 15, 17, 51, and 52 depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 14 and are, therefore, allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 14.

Claims 16, 18, and 19 are canceled.

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Claims 26-27 and 57:

Independent base Claim 26 is amended to include the limitations of indicated allowable Claim 57. There being no intervening claims, Claim 26 is now allowable. Claim 27 depends from Claim 26 and is, therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 26.

Claim 57 is canceled.

Claims 34-42:

Independent base Claim 34 is amended to include the limitations of indicated allowable Claim 36. There being no intervening claims, Claim 34 is now allowable. Claims 35-42 depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 34 and are, therefore, allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 36 is canceled.

New Claims 60-67:

Claim 60 includes all the limitations of indicated allowable Claim 52 and base Claim 14. Therefore, Claim 60 is allowable.

Claim 61 includes all of the limitations of indicated allowable Claim 42, base Claim 34, and intervening Claims 40 and 41. Therefore, Claim 61 is allowable. Claims 62-67 depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 61 and are, therefore, allowable for at least the same reasons.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all remaining claims. Should the Examiner undertake any action other than allowance of all remaining claims, or if the Examiner has any questions or suggestions for expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' attorney at (269) 279-8820.

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5/11/07

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION (37 CFR 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted via facsimile, on the date shown below, to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, at (571) 273-8300.

Date: 5/11/07

Larry E. Henneman, Jr.
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